BALDASSARRE, L. et al. Appl. No. to be assigned December 16, 2003

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims and to cancel claim 10. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

 $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{v}$ 

Richard G. Besha Reg. No. 22,770

RGB:ecb 1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714 Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100